

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, UR

SUBJECT: POLISH AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY VEST

1. SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST RECEIVED AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI JUNE 7 FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON BEFORE THE LATTER'S RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WARSAW. THE AMBASSADOR LEAVES WASHINGTON JUNE 8 FOR NEW YORK AND FROM THERE THE NEXT DAY FOR WARSAW. HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON THE END OF JUNE. SPASOWSKI ASKED VEST'S VIEWS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS, PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED CCC CREDITS, AND PLANS FOR A GIEREK
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VISIT NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING INITIAL AMENITIES VEST THANKED SPASOWSKI FOR HIS ROLE IN RESOLVING THE RECENT MISUNDERSTANDING OVER USE OF THE JOINTLY-FINANCED COPERNICUS ASTRONOMICAL CENTER IN WARSAW. WHEN VEST NOTED THE BUSY PERIOD JUST CON-
CLUDED, MENTIONING THE SECRETARY'S ATTENDANCE AT THE UNSSOD,

SPAOWSKI SAID HE HAD RECOMMENDED AGAINST ASKING FOR A BILATERAL FOR FOREIGN MINISTER WOJTASZEK BECAUSE THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC NEED FOR A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY THEN. SPASOWSKI IMPLIED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD PROBABLY ASK FOR SUCH A MEETING DURING THE UNGA NEXT SEPTEMBER. VEST EXPRESSED A HOPE THERE WOULD BE TIME FOR VANCE TO MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS THEN.

3. US-SOVIET RELATIONS. SPASOWSKI MENTIONED HE HAD BEEN WATCHING THE PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH BEFORE COMING OVER. VEST GAVE HIM A COPY AND EXPLAINED THAT IT REAFFIRMS OUR FUNDAMENTAL DESIRE TO CONTINUE PROGRESS ON SALT AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STRESSING IT IS UNHELPFUL TO HAVE THE SOVIETS INVOLVED IN DESTABILIZING VENTURES IN THE THIRD WORLD. HE SAID OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS BASED ON COMPETITION AND COOPERATION, BUT, IF THE COMPETITION GOES TO EXTREMES, AS IT HAS LATELY, IT IS HARD TO HAVE THE COOPERATION.

----- HE REITERATED THAT THE ANNAPOLIS SPEECH BEARS THE PERSONAL IMPRINT OF THE PRESIDENT AND EXPRESSES A FIRM COMMITMENT TO PURSUE SALT AND TO MAINTAIN OUR OWN STRENGTH WITHIN A VIABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. SPASOWSKI ASKED ABOUT CHANCES FOR A SALT AGREEMENT
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BEFORE THE US ELECTIONS AND WAS TOLD THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE IS AGREEMENT ON MAJOR PORTIONS, SAY 95 PERCENT, ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON THE REMAINDER IS THE MOST DIFFICULT. VEST CONFIRMED THAT THE QUESTIONS OF THE "BACKFIRE" AND HOW TO HANDLE NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE IN THE REMAINING 5 PERCENT. VEST CONCURRED THAT PAST PRECEDENT WOULD INDICATE THE SALT AGREEMENT, WHEN REACHED, WOULD PROBABLY BE SIGNED BY THE TWO HEADS OF STATE.

SPASOWSKI SAID HE HAD MET THE DAY BEFORE WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN WHO TOLD HIM THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE ANOTHER VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING IN EUROPE IN JULY, AND VEST CONCURRED IN THAT POSSIBILITY.

5. SPASOWSKI EXPLAINED HIS INTEREST IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS BY SAYING THAT FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK WOULD WANT HIS ASSESSMENT. AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE MBFR TALKS AND THE EFFORTS OF SOME NATO COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE IN A STABILIZING EFFORT IN ZAIRE, THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO BILATERAL TOPICS.

6. CCC CREDITS. SPASOWSKI NOTED THERE HAD BEEN INTENSE

INTEREST IN POLAND IN THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE

TERM FOR CCC CREDITS, BUT HE FEELS WE HAVE REACHED A DEAD END. NOTING THE VARIOUS, SOMETIMES CONFLICTING PROPOSALS IN CONGRESS AND SUGGESTING THAT EVEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS NOT SUPPORTING THE IDEA, SPASOWSKI ASKED WHAT HE SHOULD TELL GIEREK: "SHOULD I ADVISE HIM THERE IS NO CHANCE, OR SHOULD I INDICATE A WAY MIGHT STILL BE FOUND TO ESTABLISH LONGER-TERM CREDIT PROVISIONS?" VEST CAUTIONED AGAINST OPTIMISM. EE OFFICE DIRECTOR ANDREWS SAID HE WOULD ADVISE POLISH OFFICIALS NOT TO PLAN ON IT BUT TO FORMULATE THEIR LONG-RANGE PLANS ON THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING REALITY.

7. SPASOWSKI ASKED WHAT HE COULD TELL GIEREK ON THE
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POSITIVE SIDE, APART FROM THE FACT THAT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IS GOOD. CONFIRMING THIS CHARACTERIZATION, VEST OBSERVED THAT WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS TO WHAT THE GOP SEEKS WITHIN OUR EXISTING SITUATION. ANDREWS NOTED THE CONTRAST WITH THE UK AND ITALIAN CASES WHERE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOUND WAYS OF ASSISTING, PRIMARILY THROUGH THE IMF. POLAND IS IN A DIFFERENT SITUATION AND WE LACK THE FLEXIBILITY AND THE LEGISLATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO DEAL WITH IT EFFECTIVELY, ALTHOUGH WE MUST CONTINUE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES.

8. GIEREK VISIT. SPASOWSKI ASKED ABOUT SCHEDULING GIEREK'S VISIT FOR NEXT YEAR. VEST AND ANDREWS EXPLAINED OUR PROCEDURE AND CONCLUDED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE SCHEDULES WOULD PROBABLY NOT GET DOWN TO DETAILS ON VISITS FOR 1979 UNTIL LATE THIS FALL, AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. BOTH AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT US AND POLISH OFFICIALS SHOULD BEGIN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBILITIES EARLY IN THE FALL.

9. JOINT TRADE COMMISSION. SPASOWSKI SAID HE HAS HEARD THERE IS DISCUSSION ABOUT REDUCING THE LEVEL OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THIS MEETING. POINTING OUT THAT HE EXPECTS TO MEET IN WARSAW WITH VICE PREMIER JAGIELSKI, THE NEW POLISH-SIDE CHAIRMAN, SPASOWSKI ASKED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION. EXPLAINING THAT SECRETARY KREPS IS STRETCHED TO THE LIMITS BY HER VARIOUS COMMITMENTS, ANDREWS CONFIRMED THERE HAS BEEN INTERNAL DISCUSSION ABOUT REDUCING THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION ON THE TRADE COMMISSION. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN AND WE EXPECT THAT SECRETARY KREPS WILL CHAIR OUR SIDE DURING THE MEETING
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NEXT FALL. AT THAT SESSION WE WILL PROBABLY WANT TO DISCUSS WITH THE POLES THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING THE LEVEL OF FUTURE PARTICIPATION. PICKING UP A POINT

SPASOWSKI HAD MENTIONED, VEST AFFIRMED THAT WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THAT MANY CABINET SECRETARIES.

10. AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION. EXPLAINING HE HAD MET WITH ROBERT MALOT, FMC CHAIRMAN IN CHICAGO RECENTLY, SPASOWSKI EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN COOPERATION TO IMPROVE POLISH FARMING TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING USE OF FERTILIZERS AND MACHINERY. MALOT HAD SAID FMC ALREADY HAS EXTENSIVE COOPERATION IN THIS AREA WITH ROMANIA, HUNGARY, AND THE USSR. POLAND HAS DONE VERY LITTLE, IN SPASOWSKI'S VIEW. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS BECOME AN IMPORTANT AREA OF US-POLISH COOPERATION AND EXPLAINED HIS INTENTION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THAT EFFECT. HE HOPES DISCUSSIONS COULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY SO THAT EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS COULD BE SELECTED TO TEST USE OF MACHINERY AND FERTILIZER IN ORDER TO BEGIN PRODUCING RESULTS NEXT YEAR. VEST AND ANDREWS EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF THIS IDEA.

11. COMMENT: SPASOWSKI MET LATER THAT AFTERNOON WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI AND DISCUSSED MANY OF THE SAME ISSUES. VANCE

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